July 6, 2004

REMARKS

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the foregoing amendment prior to examination of the above-identified patent application to cancel claims 1-8 without prejudice or disclaimer, and to add claims 9-14. Applicants note that support of the claimed invention appears throughout Applicants disclosure including page 11.

The amendments to the claims made in this amendment have not been made to overcome the prior art, and thus, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted, Tetsuo NAGANO et al.

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